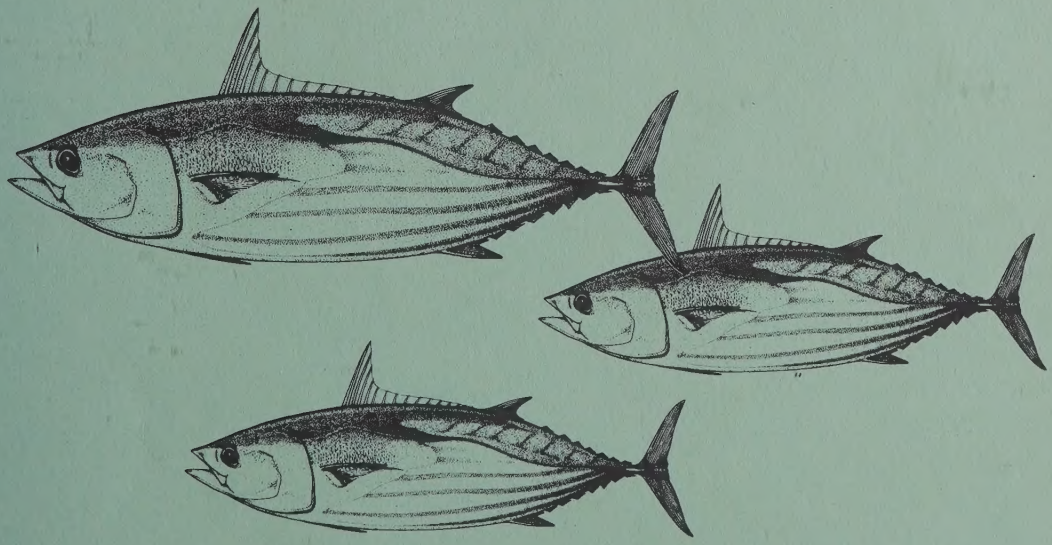
AUGUST 1977
No. 8

FISHING INFORMATION

Southwest Fisheries Center-La Jolla, California



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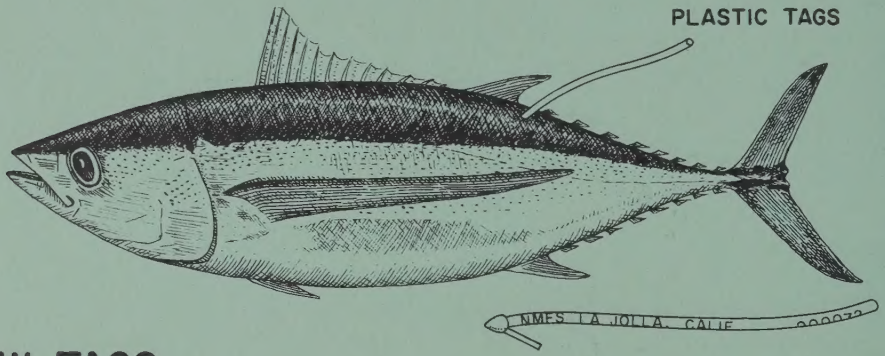
$ REWARD $

FOR ALBACORE TUNA TAGS



YELLOW TAGS

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WILL PAY $ 2.00 FOR EACH YELLOW TAG RECOVERED. (NO NEED TO RETURN FISH)

RECORD:

- ▶ WHERE
- ▶ WHEN
- ▶ HOW

} *FISH WAS CAUGHT*

- ▶ LENGTH OF FISH (TIP OF LOWER JAW TO FORK OF TAIL)

FORWARD TO NMFS ADDRESS ON TAG

RED TAGS

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WILL PAY $ 50.00 FOR EACH RED TAG & FISH RETURNED. (FISH WITH TAG INTACT MUST BE RETURNED)

RECORD:

- ▶ WHERE
- ▶ WHEN
- ▶ HOW

} *FISH WAS CAUGHT*

- ▶ LENGTH OF FISH (TIP OF LOWER JAW TO FORK OF TAIL)

NOTIFY NMFS P.O. BOX 271, LA JOLLA, CA. TEL. (714) 453-2820

THE AMERICAN FISHERMEN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION WILL AWARD CASH PRIZES FOR YELLOW & RED TAG NUMBERS DRAWN IN AN ANNUAL LOTTERY.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER
8604 LA JOLLA SHORES DRIVE - P. O. BOX 271
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

FISHING INFORMATION

AUGUST 1977, No. 8

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G. Seckel, Director, Pacific Environmental Group

PREFACE

This publication, Fishing Information, appears monthly and contains 1) fishery advisory information, 2) a narrative description of pertinent surface temperature conditions, 3) charts of winds and pressures for the eastern North Pacific, 4) charts of sea surface temperature for the North Pacific and eastern tropical Pacific, and 5) charts of subsurface temperature structure in the eastern North Pacific.

A supplement to Fishing Information appears at 15-day intervals throughout the year. It contains a chart of sea surface temperature (contoured at 2°F (1°C) intervals) from Baja California to Vancouver Island out to about 135°W. Special bulletins are published in conjunction with the 15-day sea surface temperature charts which include short-term projections of albacore distribution and locations of productive fishing areas, information on oceanographic and atmospheric conditions, and other information as is appropriate during the albacore fishing season.

The Secretary of Commerce has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department.

Submitted for publication - September 23, 1977

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTS ANALYZED BY:

F. Miller (Figures 8 and 9)
J. Renner (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 15 day Supplement)

TECHNICAL EDITOR:
R. Allen
CARTOGRAPHY:
R. Allen, H. Orr

Acknowledgements

The following organizations and stations contributed data for August 1977 charts:

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, La Jolla, California
Kelco Company, San Diego, California
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, California; Honolulu, Hawaii
National Weather Service, San Diego, California and Washington, D.C.
National Ocean Survey, Pacific Marine Center, Seattle, Washington

Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Pacific Environment Institute, West Vancouver, British Columbia by L.F. Giovando from observations by
J. Redhead at Langara Island Light; D.C. Robinson at Cape St. James Light;
L. Collins at Kains Island Light; I.G. McNeil at Amphitrite Point Light
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California

Expendable bathythermograph and salinity observations are made by the mates and engineers of the *Hawaiian Queen* of the Matson Navigation Co. The data are processed under supervision of D.R. McLain at the NMFS Pacific Environmental Group, Monterey, California, using computer facilities of the Fleet Numerical Weather Central, Monterey. The project is partially supported by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.

Sea Surface Temperature and Environmental Conditions

Forrest R. Miller

Eastern North Pacific

During August the normal position of the subtropical high pressure center in the eastern Pacific is near 37°N, 150°W with northerly winds averaging 10 to 15 knots over the U.S. west coast fishing grounds (Figure 1). Although surface winds east of 140°W are northerly and at times greater than 20 knots, sea surface temperatures (SST) show a seasonal increase over most of the eastern Pacific. Near the coasts of Oregon, California and Baja California, upwelling and nearshore ocean fronts develop and persist, especially along coastal areas which parallel the prevailing winds.

During August 1977 the average position of the high pressure center was located near 35°N, 140°W with central pressures 5 millibars below normal (Figure 2). The high pressure center was about 10° longitude east of its normal position (compare Figures 1 and 2). Southeast of the Aleutian Islands, lower than normal pressure persisted most of the month. Because of the low surface pressures east of the Aleutian Islands and a more easterly position of the high pressure center, surface winds and ocean mixing were greater than normal from 40°N to 45°N west of 150°W.

The most pronounced feature in the SST pattern was a very strong north-south temperature gradient centered along 40°N and extending westward from 145°W (Figure 3). In this area, SST's 2 to 3°C below normal developed between the Aleutian low and the eastern Pacific high pressure center (Figure 5). This condition showed a marked departure from August 1976 when SST's were 1 to 2°C higher than in August 1977 (Figure 7). From July to August 1977, SST's cooled 1 to 1.5°C in most of the area bounded by the 2 to 3°C negative SST departure contours (Figure 5). Another area showing increasing negative SST departures was along most of the Canadian, U.S. and Baja California coastal regions. The coastal areas with SST's more than 1°C below normal (Figure 5) were areas of active ocean mixing and nearshore upwelling. These coastal areas were also 1 to 2°C colder than in August 1976 (Figure 7). From 20°N to 40°N between 125°W and 150°W SST's generally increased at above normal rates. This was due primarily to the position of a relatively weak subtropical high pressure center (Figure 2) and associated light winds and cloud cover east and south of the center. The large positive departures of SST in August 1977 from August 1976 centered around 40°N, 140°W and south of 25°N (Figure 7) were due primarily to the differences in position and intensity of the wind circulations around the respective high pressure centers. In August 1976 the subtropical high pressure center was near the mean position (Figure 1) with normal pressures. In August 1977 the high pressure center was weaker and displaced eastward (Figure 2); and there was greater than normal latitudinal displacement of the center throughout the month.

Western North Pacific

During August the Pacific high pressure ridge intensified and move north of its normal position between 140°E and 170°E. At the same time, surface pressures decreased 3 to 5 millibars below normal east of Japan. As a result of these changes, southerly winds increased between the east coast of Japan and 170°W north of 35°N, and a large area covered by positive SST departures greater than 1°C developed from northern Japan to 170°E (Figure 6). This was the area of greatest development in the northwestern Pacific Ocean front (Figure 4) where SST contours showed a tight north to south gradient. Along the southern boundary of the area of positive SST departures (Figure 6) weather frontal activity was widespread. As a result of the northward movement of the high pressure ridge and increased weather activity north of 35°N, the area

of negative SST departures of 1 to 3°C, which prevailed between 30°N and 40°N in previous months, considerably decreased in size (Figure 6). Only in the central part of the Pacific east of 180°, where surface winds remained strong, was there a sizable area of negative departure remaining from earlier months.

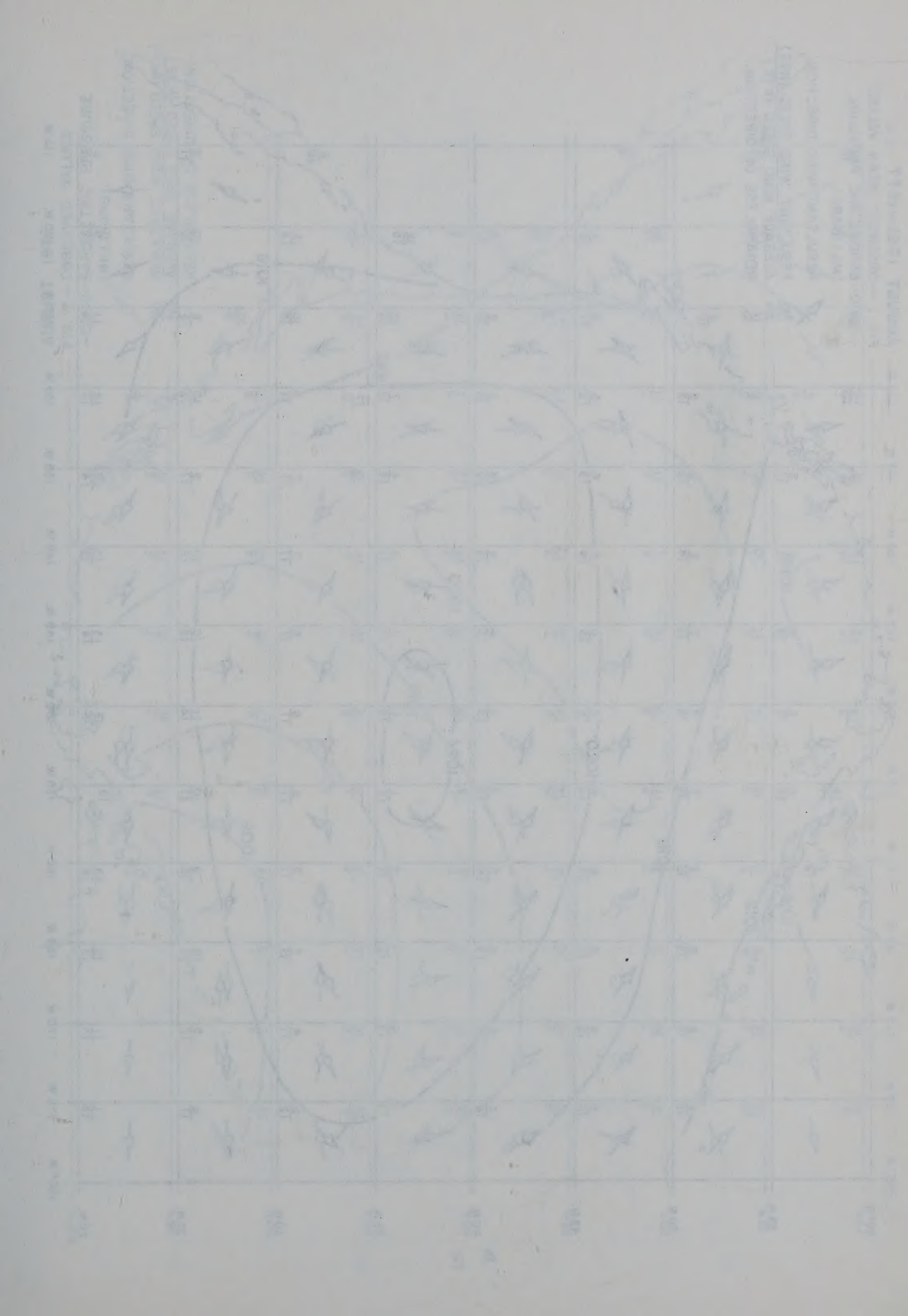
Eastern Tropical Pacific

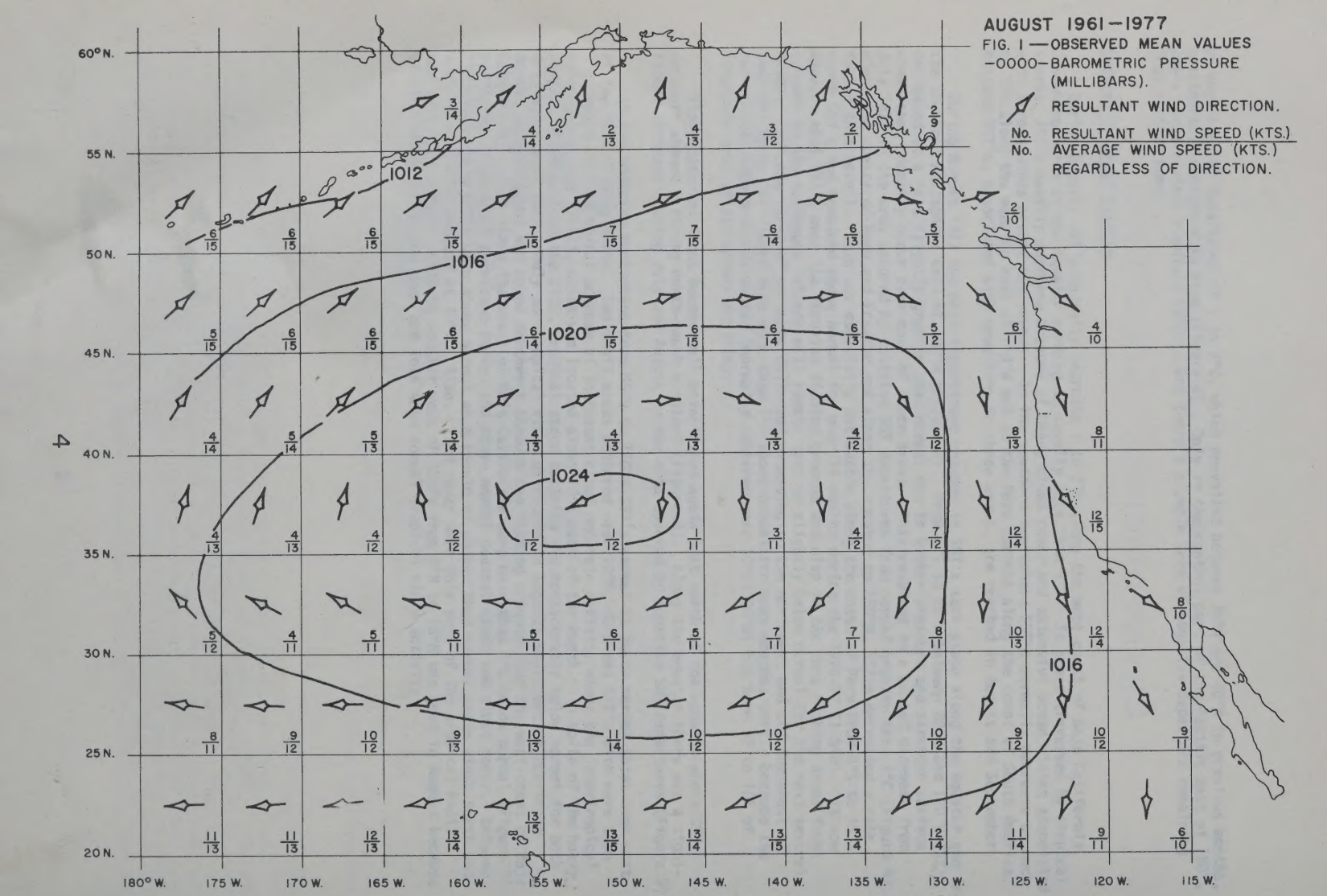
During August, SST's normally increase 1 to 2°C along the west coast of Baja California. Elsewhere north of the equator warming is usually less than 1°C. In areas traversed by tropical storms, SST's usually decrease because of heavy cloud cover and extensive ocean mixing associated with strong winds around the storms. In the southern hemisphere SST's normally decrease as much as 2°C along the equator east of 110°W and in the Peru Current along the coast of South America. Minimum SST's, associated with upwelling in these areas, are reached in August and September.

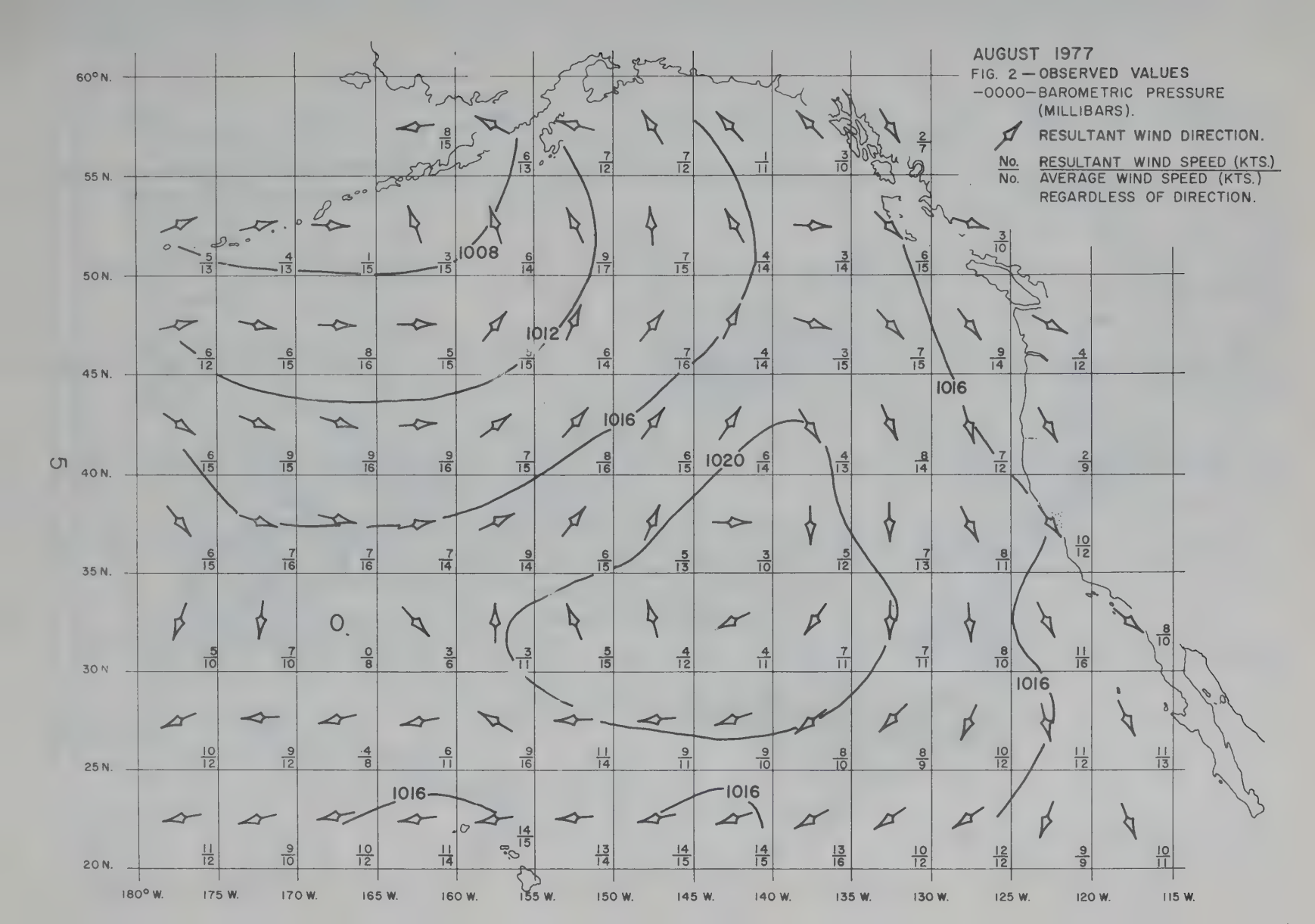
During August 1977 the most significant changes in SST's took place along the equator and in the southern hemisphere east of 130°W (Figure 8). From 5°S to 20°S between 80°W and 120°W SST's decreased at a rate slightly greater than normal due to higher pressure and stronger surface winds that normally occur over most of these areas. This resulted in a marked decrease from July 1977 in the area covered by positive SST departures from normal greater than 1°C (Figure 9). Along the coasts of Peru and Ecuador and along the equator to 150°W, SST's decreased a rate faster than normal. This was especially noticeable along the coast of Peru from 8°S to 15°S where SST's had remained above normal for over 14 months during the 1976-77 El Niño. It now appears that SST's over the Peruvian fishing grounds and also in the tuna fishing areas from Ecuador to the Galápagos Islands will remain near or slightly below normal for the next several months. Off the coast of northern Chile and extending to the northwest and off the coast of southern Peru, SST's have been more than 1°C above normal for many months, partly because the subtropical high pressure center (normally centered near 30°S, 90°W) has been 5° to 10° of longitude west of its normal position.

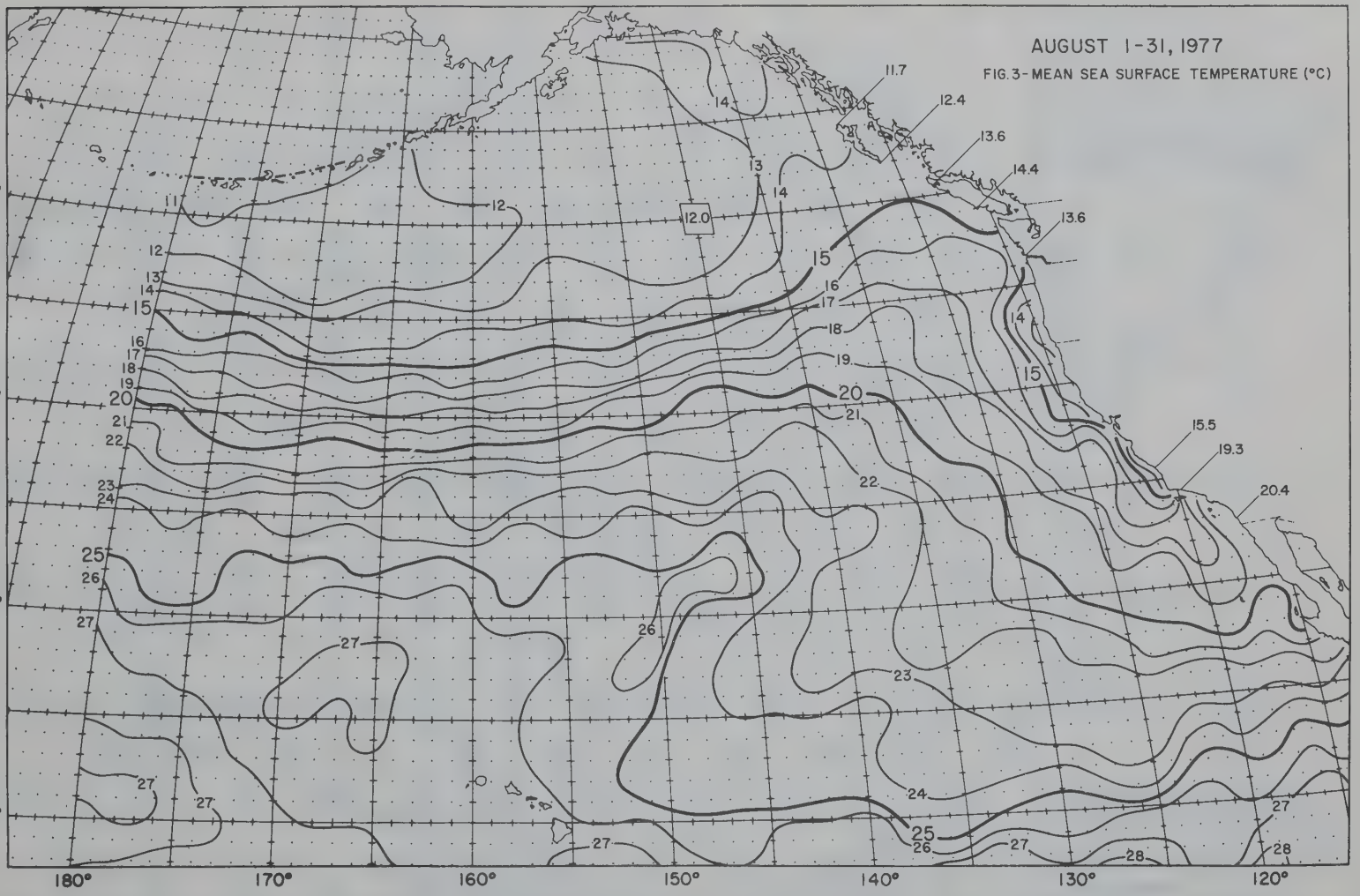
The equatorial front became well established again just north of the equator where SST contours showed a strong north-south gradient (Figure 8). Along the equator there was a significant increase during July and August in the area covered by negative SST departures (Figure 9).

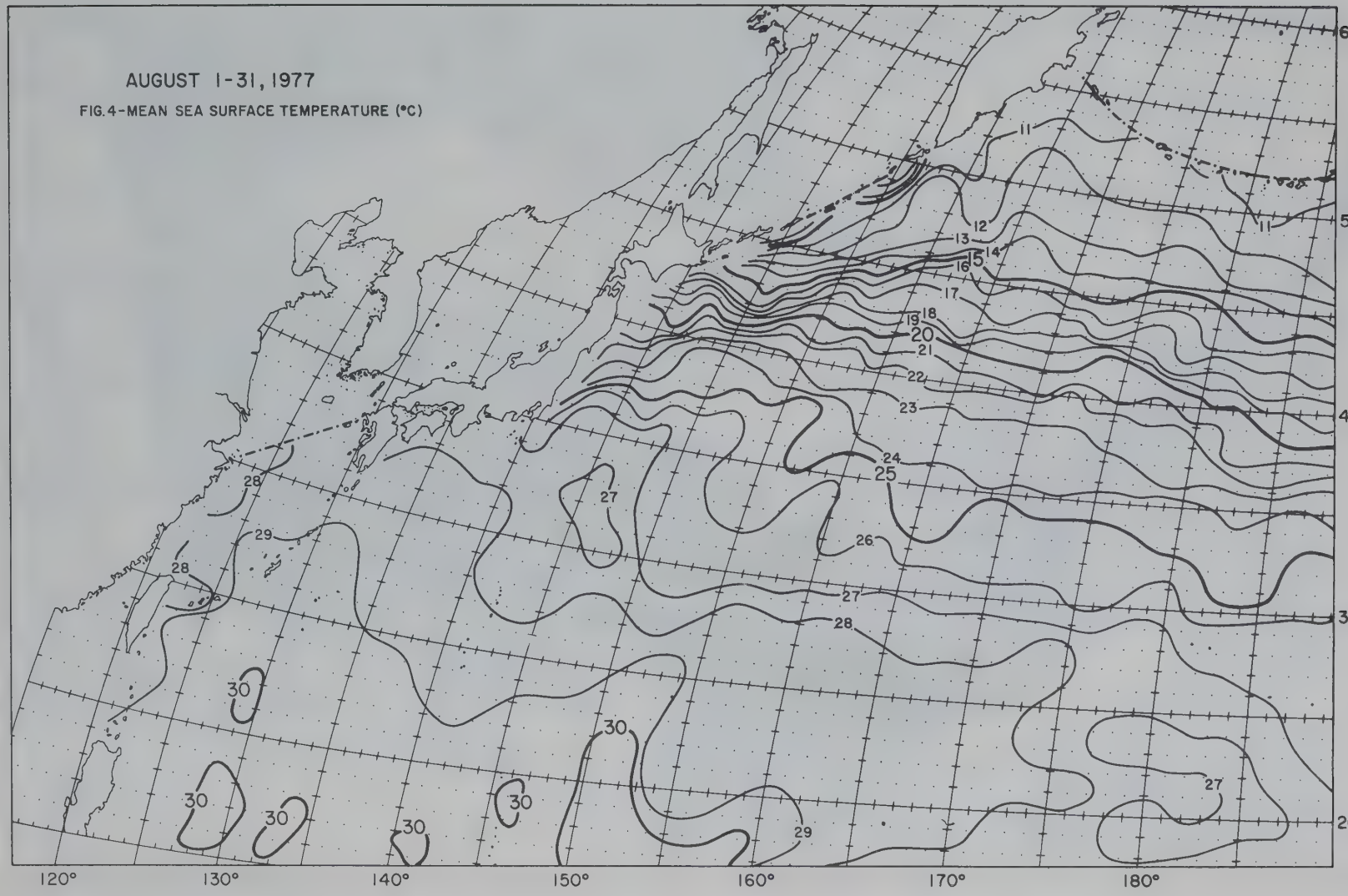
In the northern hemisphere from 85°W to 110°W SST's warmed at below normal rates over most of the tuna fishing areas. Two small areas centered near 10°N, 90°N had SST's with more than 1°C departure from normal because of increased cloud and rain activity along the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), which was located along 10°N most of the month. In spite of the heavy squall activity along the ITCZ, tropical storm activity was considerably below normal for both July and August 1977. Only one tropical storm developed in August; which became hurricane Doreen in mid-August and moved northwest through the fishing grounds near the west coast of Baja California. SST's along the coast of Baja California were more than 1°C below normal (Figure 9), partly as a result of hurricane Doreen and above normal coastal winds and cloud cover. Between 120°W and 150°W SST's were above normal as a result of weaker than normal trade winds north and south of the ITCZ located at 10°N. Also, cloud cover over this part of the tropical Pacific was less than normal. Fishing weather west of 120°W from 5°N to 15°N was good in August because of the lighter winds and seas and less than normal tropical storm activity.

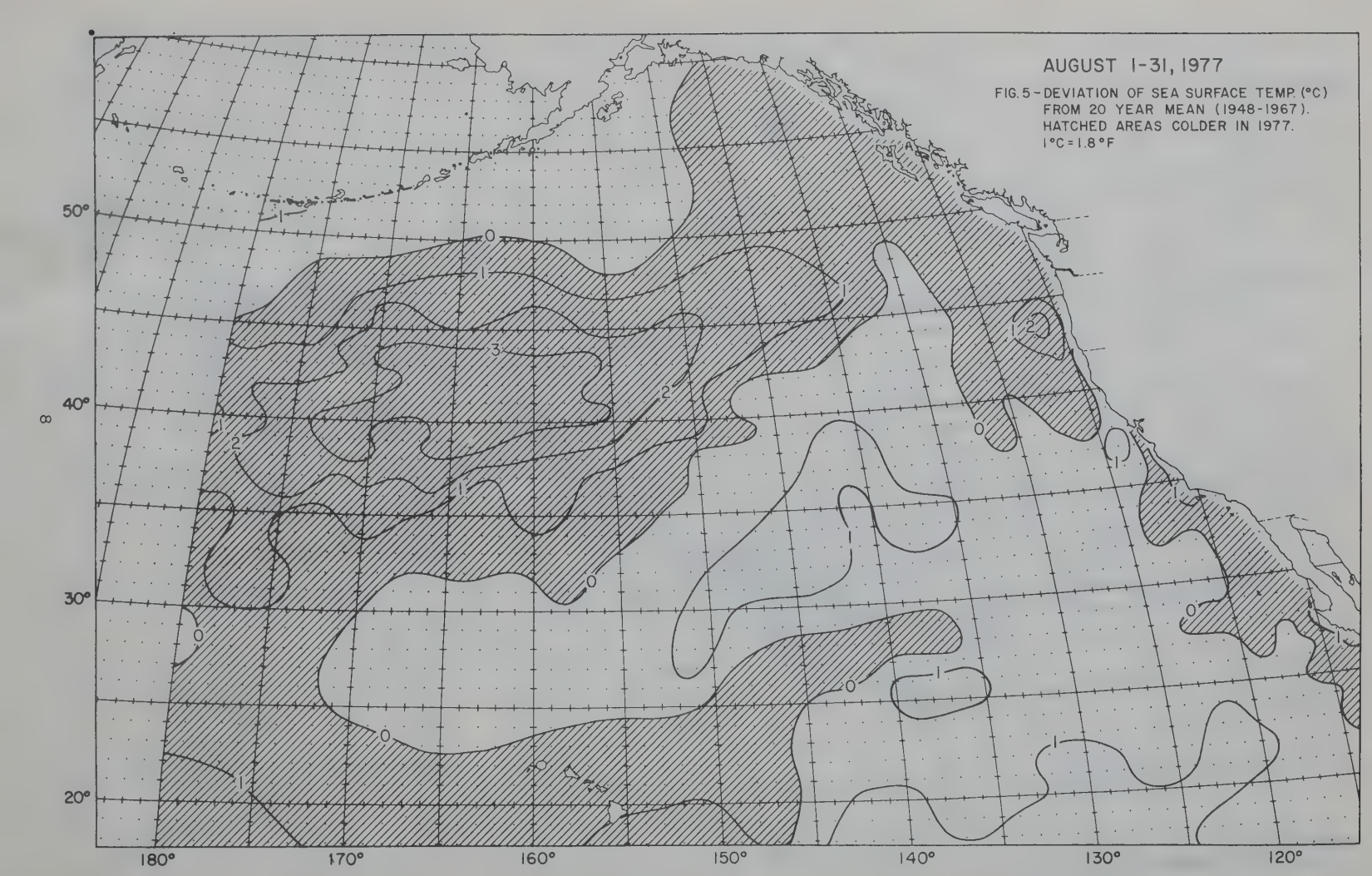


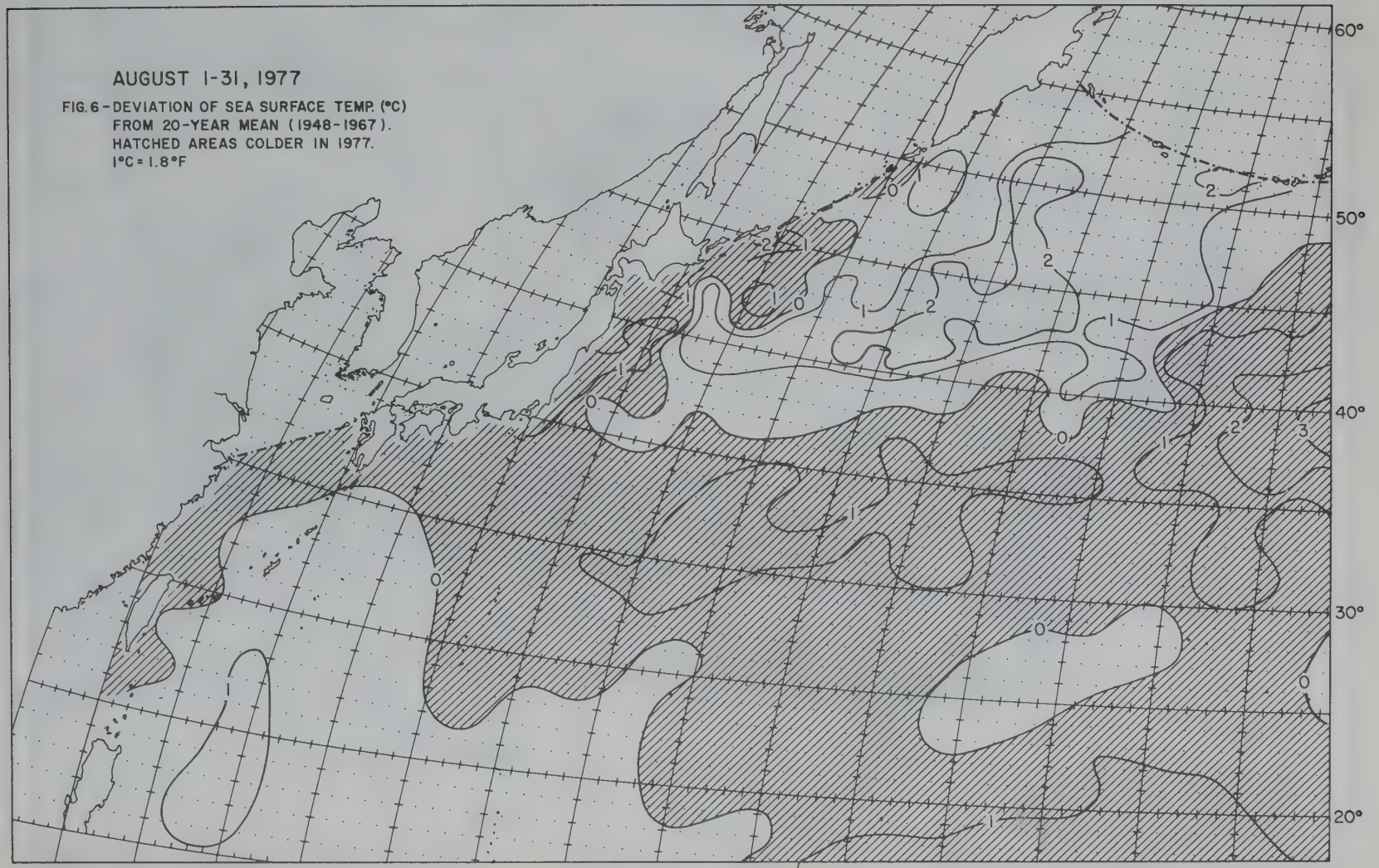

AUGUST 1961–1977
FIG. 1 —OBSERVED MEAN VALUES
–0000– BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (MILLIBARS).
RESULTANT WIND DIRECTION.
No. RESULTANT WIND SPEED (KTS.)
No. AVERAGE WIND SPEED (KTS.) REGARDLESS OF DIRECTION.
1012
1016
1020
1024
1016
60° N.
55 N.
50 N.
45 N.
40 N.
35 N.
30 N.
25 N.
20 N.
180° W.
175 W.
170 W.
165 W.
160 W.
155 W.
150 W.
145 W.
140 W.
135 W.
130 W.
125 W.
120 W.
115 W.

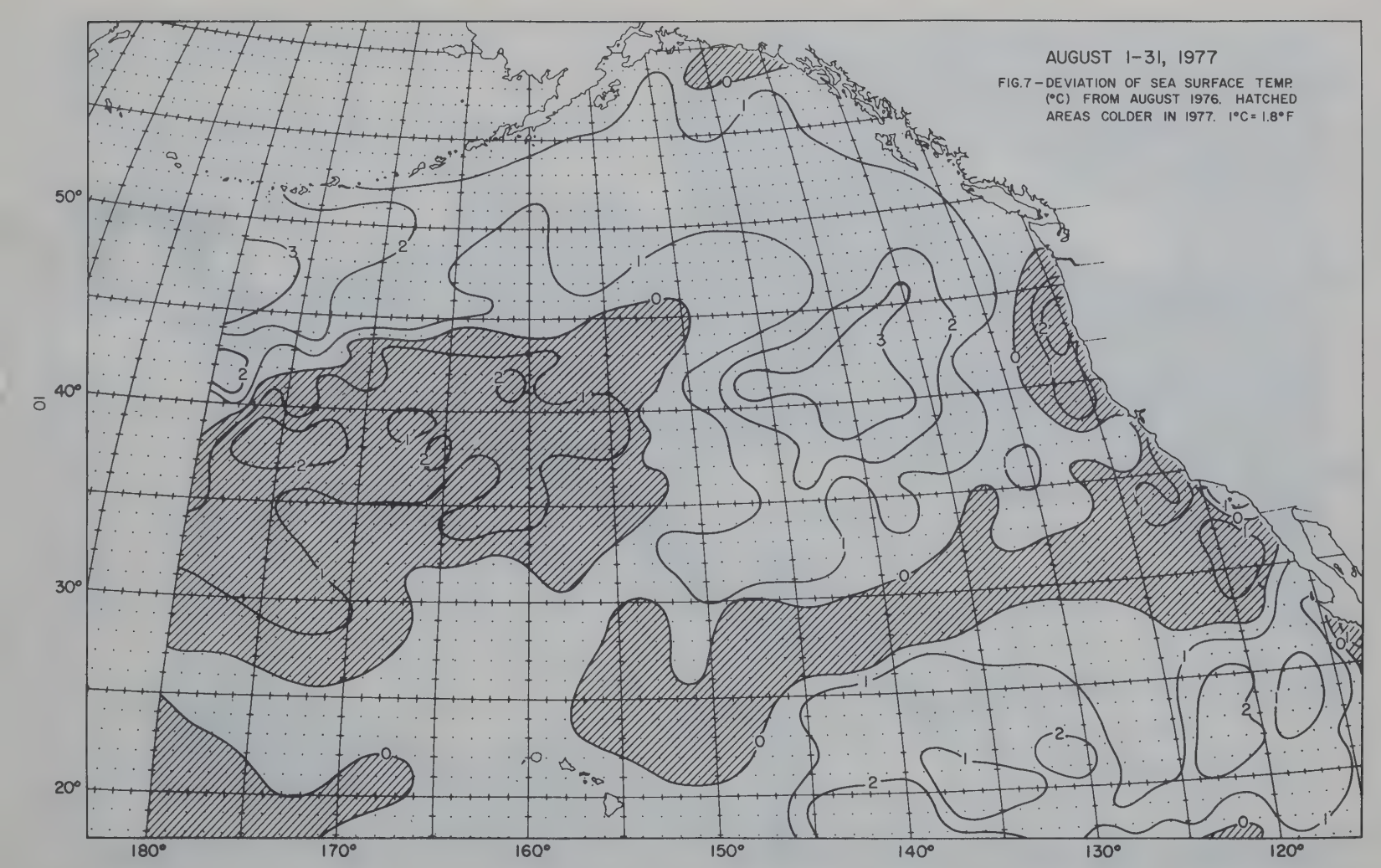

AUGUST 1977
FIG. 2 — OBSERVED VALUES
-0000- BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (MILLIBARS).
RESULTANT WIND DIRECTION.
No. RESULTANT WIND SPEED (KTS.)
No. AVERAGE WIND SPEED (KTS.) REGARDLESS OF DIRECTION.
1008
1012
1016
1016
1020
1016
1016
1016
60° N.
55 N.
50 N.
45 N.
40 N.
35 N.
30 N
25 N.
20 N.
180° W.
175 W.
170 W.
165 W.
160 W.
155 W.
150 W.
145 W.
140 W.
135 W.
130 W.
125 W.
120 W.
115 W.

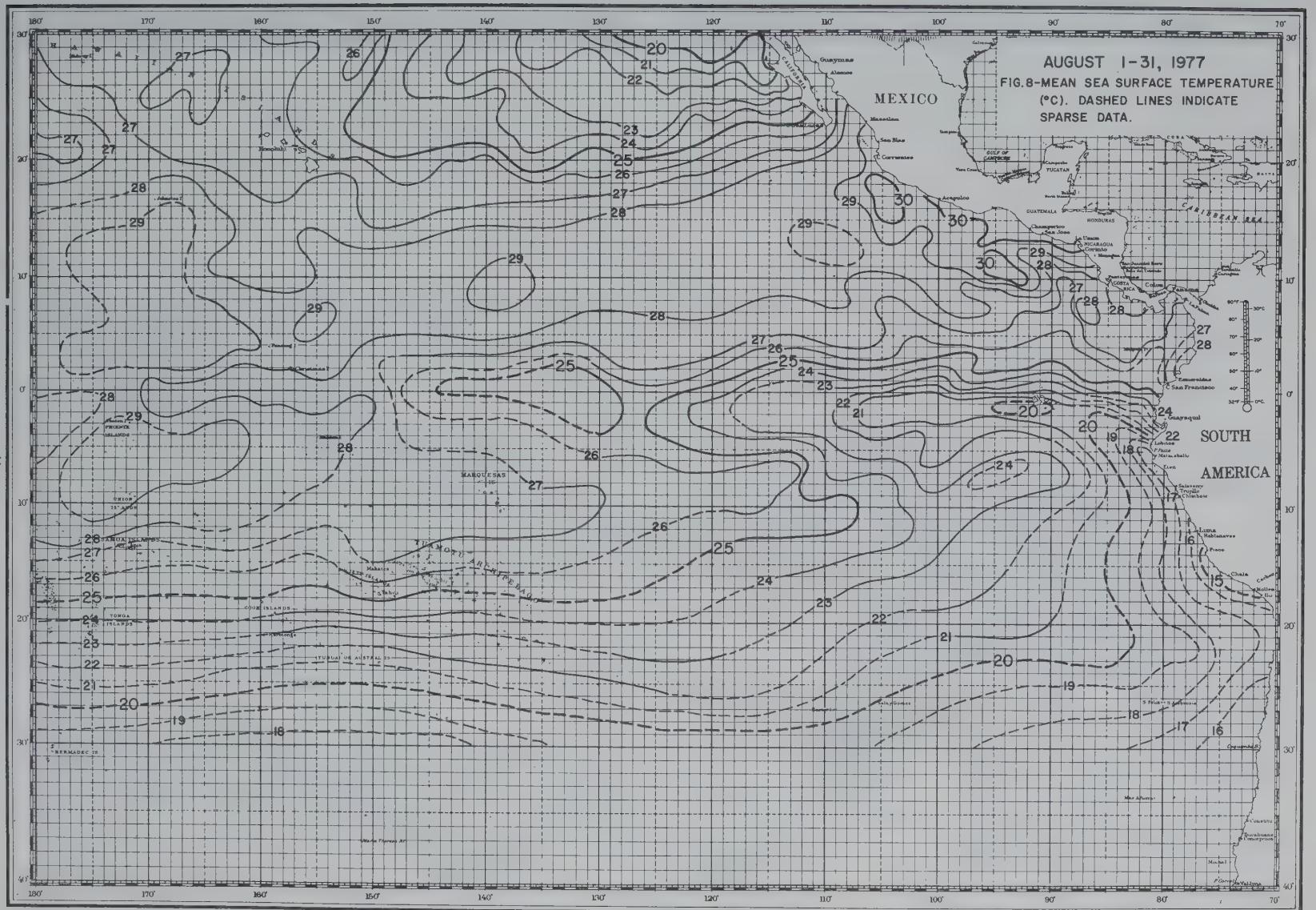

AUGUST 1-31, 1977
FIG.3-MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C)
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°
11.7
12.4
13.6
14.4
13.6
12.0
15.5
19.3
20.4


AUGUST 1-31, 1977
FIG.4-MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C)
60°
50°
40°
30°
20°
120°
130°
140°
150°
160°
170°
180°
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30


AUGUST 1-31, 1977
FIG. 5 - DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°C) FROM 20 YEAR MEAN (1948-1967). HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1977. 1°C = 1.8°F
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°


AUGUST 1-31, 1977
FIG. 6 - DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°C) FROM 20-YEAR MEAN (1948-1967). HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1977.
1°C = 1.8°F
60°
50°
40°
30°
20°
120°
130°
140°
150°
160°
170°
180°


AUGUST 1-31, 1977
FIG.7 - DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°C) FROM AUGUST 1976. HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1977. 1°C = 1.8°F
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°


AUGUST 1-31, 1977
FIG.8-MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C). DASHED LINES INDICATE SPARSE DATA.
MEXICO
SOUTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN SEA
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA
COSTA RICA
Panama
Acapulco
Guayaquil
Lima
Callao
Chile
Tahiti
MARQUESAS
COOK ISLANDS
TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO
Easter I.
Juan Fernandez Is.
Galapagos Is.

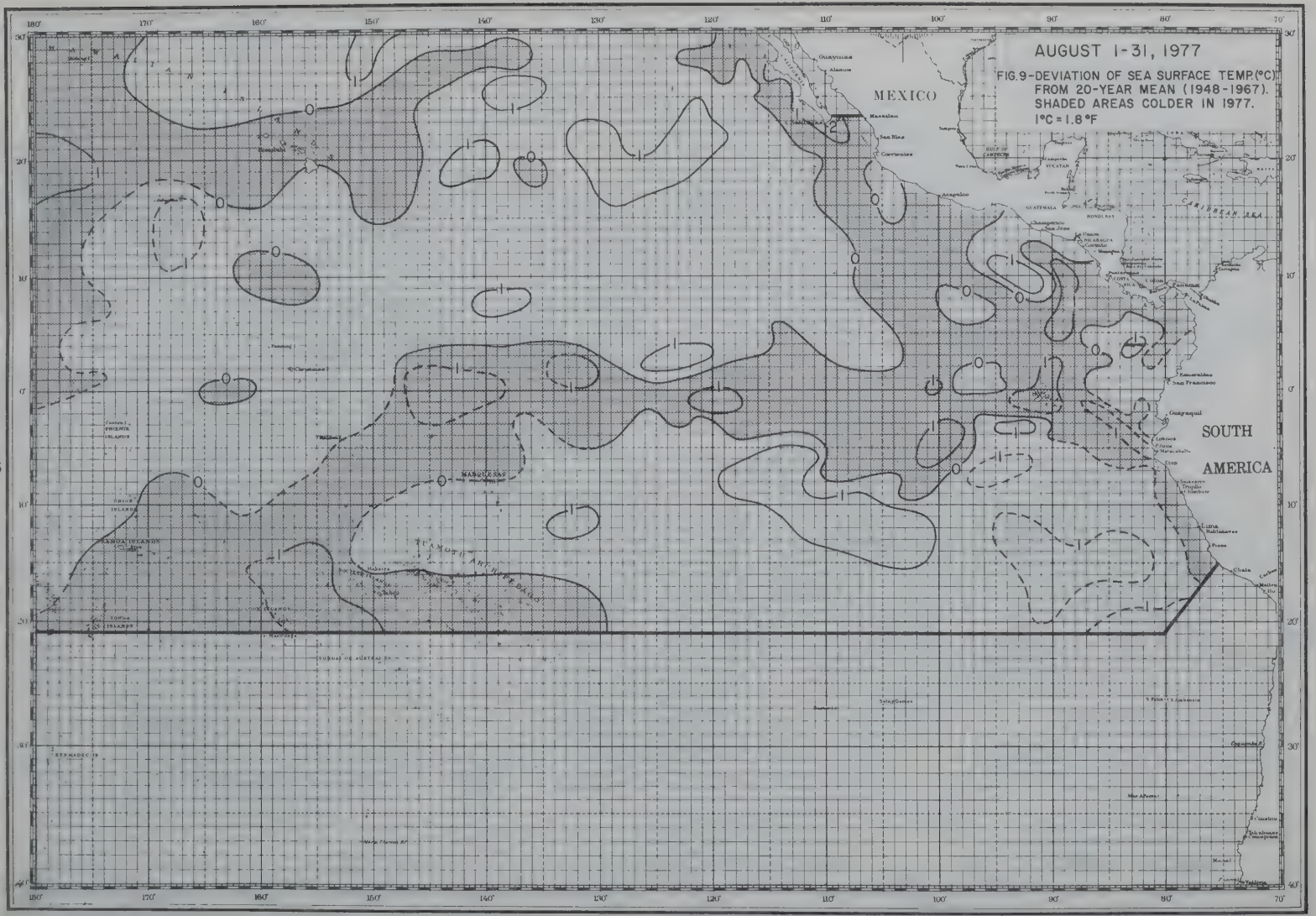

AUGUST 1-31, 1977
FIG.9-DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP.(°C) FROM 20-YEAR MEAN (1948-1967). SHADED AREAS COLDER IN 1977.
1°C = 1.8 °F
MEXICO
SOUTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN SEA
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA
COSTA RICA
PANAMA
CUBA
YUCATAN
GUAYMAS
ALAMOS
MAZATLAN
SAN BLAS
CORRIENTES
ACAPULCO
MANZANILLO
GUAYAQUIL
LOBITOS
TALARA
PAITA
CHIMBOTE
LIMA
CHALA
MARQUESAS
SAMOA ISLANDS
TONGA ISLANDS
TUBUAI OR AUSTRAL IS.
EASTER I.
SAN FELIX & SAN AMBROSIO
JUAN FERNANDEZ IS.
MOCHA I.
VALDIVIA
CORONEL
CONCEPCION
TALCAHUANO
CHILOE
PUERTO MONTT
CHAITEN
PUERTO AYSEN
PUERTO CHACABUCO
PUERTO NATALES
PUNTA ARENAS
CAPE HORN
STRAIT OF MAGELLAN
GULF OF PANAMA
GULF OF CHIRIQUI
GULF OF GUAYAQUIL
GULF OF CARIBBEAN
GULF OF PENAS
GULF OF CORCOVADO
GULF OF ANCUD
GULF OF ARAUCO
GULF OF CALIFORNIA
GULF OF TEHUANTEPEC
GULF OF PAPAGAYO
GULF OF FONSECA
GULF OF NICOYA
GULF OF DULCE
GULF OF PANAMA
GULF OF GUAYAQUIL
GULF OF CARIBBEAN
GULF OF PENAS
GULF OF CORCOVADO
GULF OF ANCUD
GULF OF ARAUCO
GULF OF CALIFORNIA
GULF OF TEHUANTEPEC
GULF OF PAPAGAYO
GULF OF FONSECA
GULF OF NICOYA
GULF OF DULCE

FIGURE 10

SHIP HAWAIIAN QUEEN

VOYAGE 208

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- MAKAPUU PT, OAHU, HAWAII

11 AUG 1977 - 17 AUG 1977

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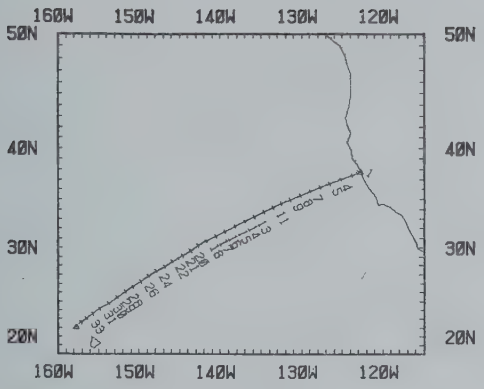

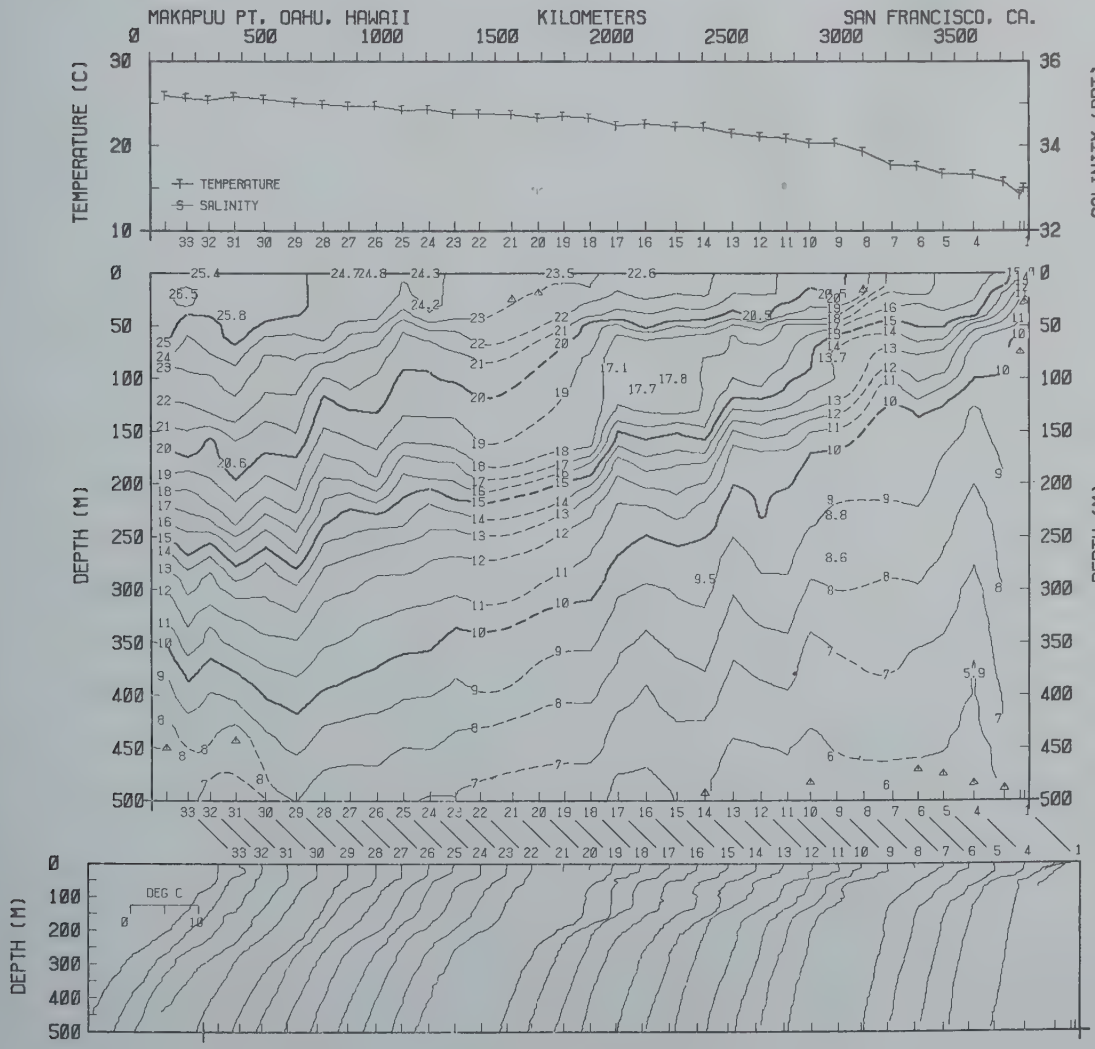

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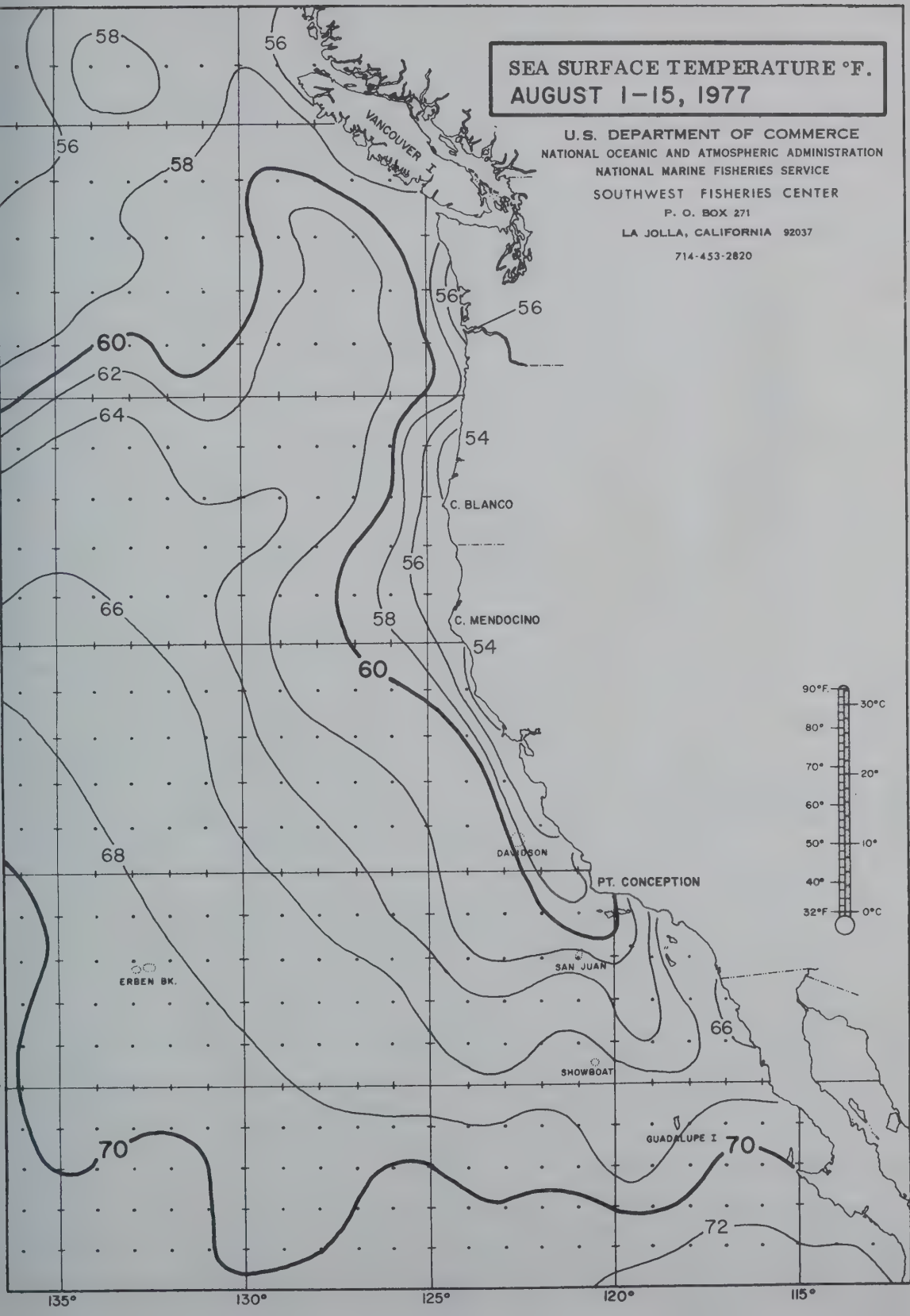

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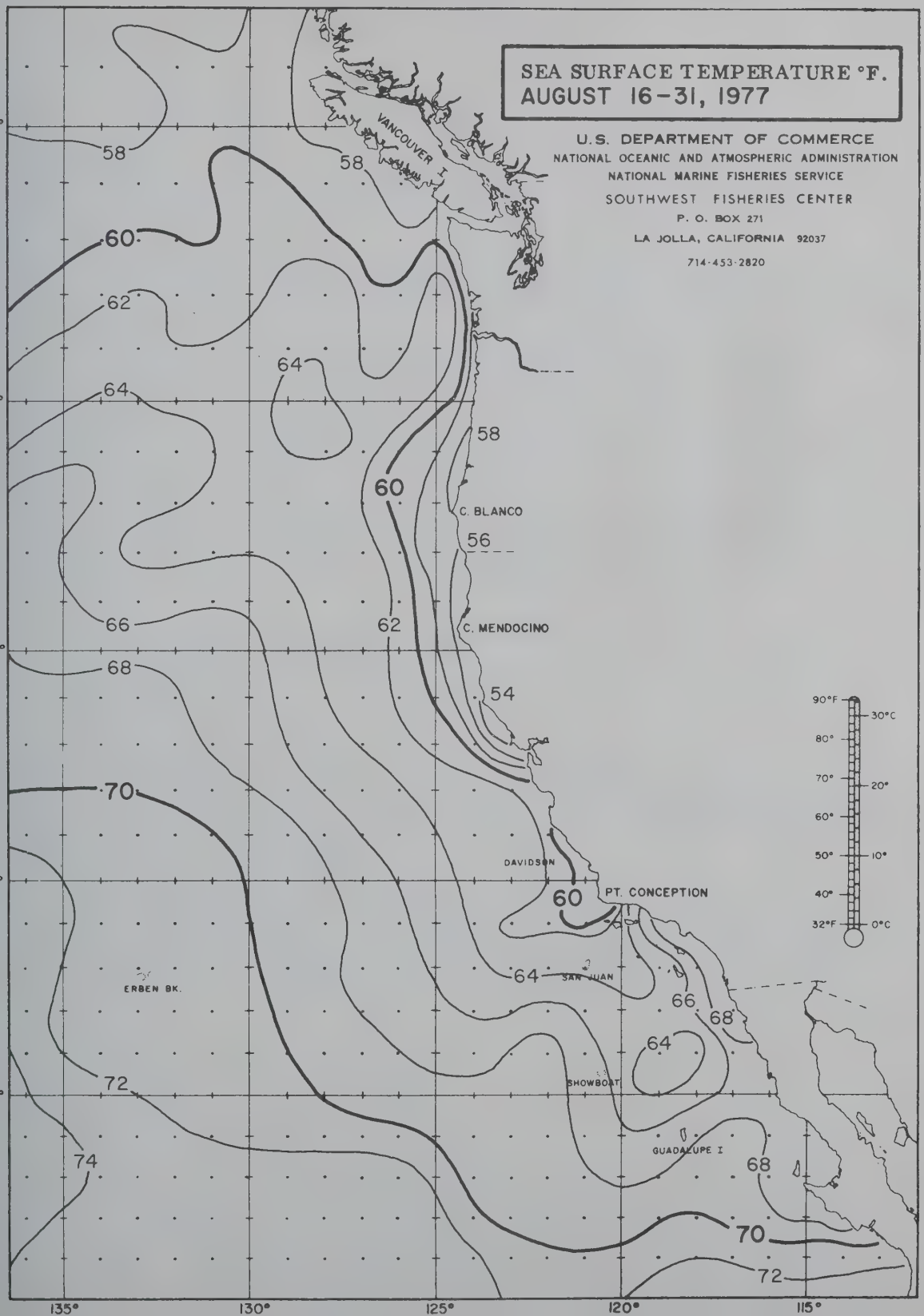

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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
La Jolla, California 92038

Bulletin No. 77-4

FISHING SPOTTY OFF BAJA CALIFORNIA; PROMISING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Commercial fishing was scattered from Cape Flattery to Baja California during the last 2 weeks of July. The consistent location of catches remained off northern Baja California where boats moved northward from the alupe Island-San Martin Island area to approximately 60 miles south of San Diego. Fishing was spotty for both boats and jigboats; however, jigboats averaged 20-60 fish per day. Albacore being landed are mostly 11-14 .4) and 18.5-22.5 pounds (8.4-10.2 kg).

While the northern Baja California vicinity produced the most consistent catches in July, fishing conditions ween Coos Bay and the Columbia River looked promising at the end of the month. Since July 26, jigboats averaged 00 fish per day with top scores of 100-500. These albacore were reported to be mostly 11-12 pounds (5-5.5 kg).

Albacore of 11-12 pounds (5-5.5 kg) have also predominated in all fishing areas between Coos Bay and San Diego. hes have been inconsistent, but some 100-250 fish scores were recorded from 300 miles west of Fort Bragg to the kson Seamount and few 100-fish catches were reported west and southwest of Point Arguello.

The three jigboats on charter to the American Fishermen's Research Foundation worked from west of San Martin nd to Cape Cook during July 19-August 1. The Lady Olga fished 200-400 miles offshore from central to Baja fornia and reported 0-117 fish catches. Her best scores were made between Point Arguello and Pigeon Point and lbacore were caught between San Diego and San Martin Island. The Four C's fished from 120 miles off Coos Bay 00 miles west of Fort Bragg and caught 170 and 176 albacore on July 19 and 20 near the Jackson Seamount. On 25 and 26, the Four C's caught about 100 fish 300 miles west of Fort Bragg and on July 31, 178 fish off Coos Bay albacore caught on these 5 days averaged 11-12 pounds (5-5.5 kg). Small catches were made by the Four C's on er days. The Lusty worked from southwest of Cape Cook to Newport before entering Astoria on July 28. Her first ch in this area was on July 23 from approximately 230 miles west of Newport. The Lusty caught 176 fish on that and these averaged 11-1/2 pounds (5.2 kg). The Lusty reported small catches as far north as the Cobb Seamount July 25.

San Diego sportboats reported good albacore fishing off northern Baja California during the last 2 weeks of . Daily catches, except for July 31, were approximately 2 fish per passenger to better than 3 fish per angler. best count for 1 day was almost 4,000 albacore.

Radio station KAST in Astoria, Oregon is now transmitting the National Marine Fisheries Service's Daily Albacore hery Information. KAST is 1370 on your AM radio dial and is broadcasting the fishery report at 0610 and 1805 rs, Monday evening to Saturday morning.

During the last half of July sea surface temperatures (SST) continued to rise at seasonal rates of 1° to 2°F r most of the eastern Pacific. Along the U.S. west coast from Point Conception (35°N) to the Columbia River °N), SST's were 1° to 2°F below normal. These lower temperatures were in the coastal area where SST's were less n 58°F (see chart). To the west of 127°W and south of 48°N SST's were slightly above normal during the last half July. This was the case especially where the 60°F to 64°F isotherms bulge to the northeast on the attached chart. th of 35°N, SST's were 1° to 2°F above normal over a large part of the area east of 135°W.

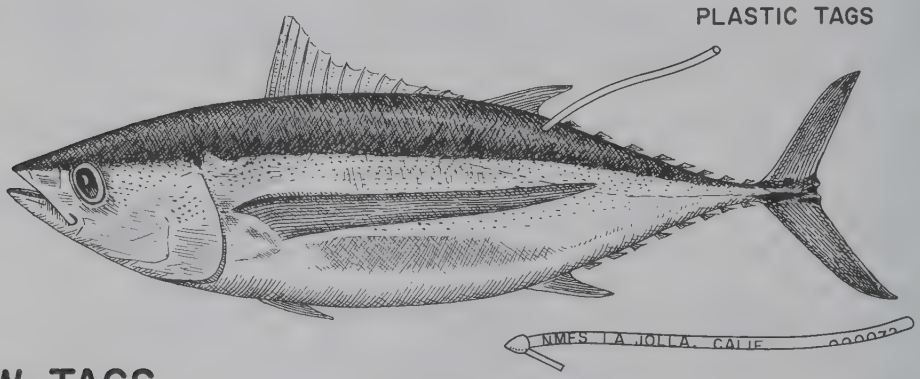
The Long Range Prediction Group, National Weather Service, Washington, D.C. expects very little change in the ther and temperature patterns during the next 15 days. The main storm tracks will be near 55°N with some storms ching the northwest part of the U.S. west coast. Along most of the California coast south of Cape Mendocino face pressures will be about normal and winds lighter than normal along the coast between Cape Blanco and Cape docino. In general, the seasonal warming trend in SST's is expected to continue with SST's remaining below normal ng the coast north of 35°N. The subtropical high pressure center is expected to be centered near 38°N, 155°W.

ust 2, 1977

Staff, Albacore Fisheries Program
R. Michael Laurs, Leader

$ REWARD $

FOR ALBACORE TUNA TAGS



YELLOW TAGS

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WILL PAY $ 2.00 FOR EACH YELLOW TAG RECOVERED. (NO NEED TO RETURN FISH)

RECORD:

- ▶ WHERE
- ▶ WHEN
- ▶ HOW

} *FISH WAS CAUGHT*

- ▶ LENGTH OF FISH (TIP OF LOWER JAW TO FORK OF TAIL)

FORWARD TO NMFS ADDRESS ON TAG

RED TAGS

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WILL PAY $ 50.00 FOR EACH RED TAG & FISH RETURNED. (FISH WITH TAG INTACT MUST BE RETURNE

RECORD:

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NOTIFY NMFS P.O. BOX 271, LA JOLLA, CA. TEL. (714) 453-2820

THE AMERICAN FISHERMEN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION WILL AWARD CASH PRIZES FOR YELLOW & RED TAG NUMBERS DRAWN IN AN ANNUAL LOTTERY.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
La Jolla, California 92038

Bulletin No. 77-5

BEST FISHING IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

From August 2-14, commercial catches were reported in widely scattered locations. The best area of jig fishing n the Pacific Northwest where good average catches of 100-200 fish were reported on a number of days. The ry in this vicinity, however, was concentrated between Coos Bay and Newport from August 1-3 and moved to the Harbor-Cape Flattery area from August 9-14. Fishing between these two periods was spotty from Cape Blanco to olumbia River.

The only other sites to produce fair to good catches were off Baja California and between the Davidson Seamount an Francisco. The fishing off Baja California was on mixed-sized fish, but fishing was very spotty and many oats and the bigger jigboats left this area in early August. Jigboats that remained 60-120 miles south of iego averaged 30-50 fish a day per boat. The fishery off central California appeared more promising, but only boats were in the area. Top score was about 300 fish but the averages were generally less than 100 fish per

The American Fishermen's Research Foundation's (AFRF) chartered jigboats worked from Guadalupe Island to Vancouver d from August 2-15. The Lady Olga was at sea from August 2-3 and August 10-15 and reported poor catches of 0-19 offshore Point Arguello to Guadalupe Island. The Four C's had a good catch of 196 albacore on August 1 before ing Newport, Oregon on August 2. The Four C's left port, again, on August 8 but reported poor fishing conditions mall catches from Newport to Cape Mendocino during the second week of August. Fishing conditions looked better oint Arena on August 14 when the Four C's caught 84 albacore. These fish were mainly 6 and 12 pounds (2.7 and g). The Lusty, meanwhile, scouted for albacore from the Columbia River to the Dellwood Knolls from August 3-15. August 3-10, small catches of less than 41 fish a day were made by the Lusty from Gray's Harbor to the Dellwood s. On August 11-13, however, good scores of 71 to 209 fish were recorded from 110 miles west of Gray's Harbor 0 miles offshore of Cape Flattery. The predominant sizes of albacore caught by the three chartered vessels in reas, except off Point Arena, were 10-12 pounds (4.5-5.5 kg).

San Diego sportboats continued to do well for most of the first 2 weeks of August while fishing about 50-80 miles of San Diego. Daily averages were approximately 0.5-3.5 fish per angler.

During August 1-15 the U.S. northwest states and adjacent coastal area experienced above-normal pressures and ce temperatures. Most of the coastal region of California was dominated by relatively low pressure associated the thermal low that extended farther north and west than usual from the interior region. The subtropical high ure center remained farther offshore than normal, and as a result, the northerly winds were lighter than normal 35°N to 45°N between 124°W and 126°W. This condition led to sea surface temperatures (SST) increasing at rates tly above the normal seasonal rate. Therefore, SST's were 1° to 2°F above normal south of Cape Mendocino between and 126°W (see attached chart). Elsewhere, SST's continued to warm at seasonal rates. North of Cape Blanco rom San Francisco to Point Conception, coastal SST's remained 1° to 2° below normal. South of British Columbia est of Washington between 125°W and 130°W, SST's were 1° to 2°F above normal where the 60°F and 62°F SST con- bulged northward in the attached chart.

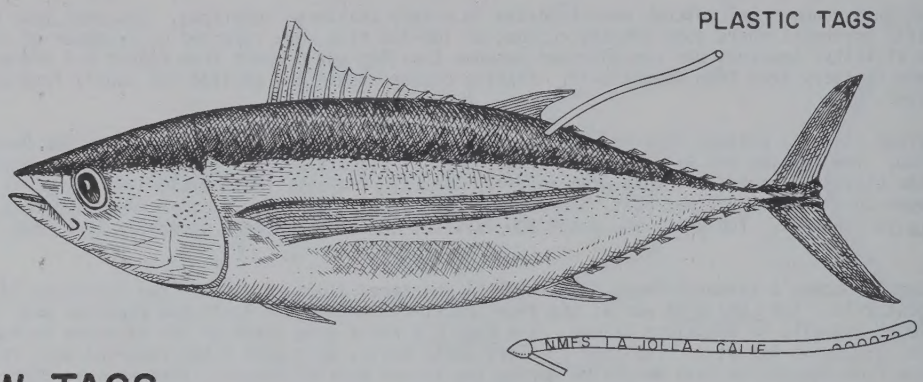
The Long Range Prediction Group, National Weather Service, Washington, D.C. expects some strengthening of the pressure along the U.S. Northwest, and an increase in pressure along the California coast during the last half gust. A low pressure region will persist over the eastern Pacific along 165°W. As a result, the subtropical pressure center is expected to move closer again to the coast and coastal upwelling from Cape Blanco to San isco should increase again.

t 16, 1977

Staff, Albacore Fisheries Program
R. Michael Laurs, Leader

$ REWARD $

FOR ALBACORE TUNA TAGS



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Bulletin No. 77-6

FISHING SCATTERED; BOATS MOVING TO CALIFORNIA WATERS

Fishing was scattered from south of Cape Colnett, Baja California to Tasu Sound, the Queen Charlotte Islands g the last 15 days of August. Many boats fished off Vancouver Island in the third week of August where daily es were generally 5-70 fish per boat and top scores were approximately 150 fish. Because of many low scores, oats moved northward to an area off Tasu Sound where 50-100 fish catches were reported on August 25. The fish- ff Tasu Sound and northern Vancouver Island did not materialize; therefore, like most of the fleet, these boats d southward. As the boats moved southward, spotty catches on 17-18 pound (7.7-8.2 kg) albacore were made about les offshore between Crescent City and Eureka and some fishing was reported between Fort Bragg and Port Arena. hile, boats that were working between Point Reyes and Point Arguello also had catches of 20-70 fish per boat in on most days when weather conditions permitted fishing. The central California vicinity, however, appeared sing with good scores of better than 300 fish recorded on a few days. Most of the albacore landed from central ornia ranged from 9-18 pounds (4.1-8.2 kg). In other areas, fishing was very spotty from Ensenada to south of Colnett.

From August 16-29, the three American Fishermen's Research Foundation's (AFRF) chartered jigboats (Lady Olga, C's and Lusty) scouted for albacore from west-southwest of San Diego to the northern end of the Queen Charlotte ds. As in the past, these boats fished away from the fishing fleet and reported their findings to the AFRF in iego and to the fleet. The Lady Olga worked off San Diego to offshore San Francisco before entering Morro Bay gust 28. Its catches were generally less than 55 fish a day; however, fair scores of 91 and 129 fish were made gust 17 and 25 while the Lady Olga was west of Cortez Bank and approximately 100 miles west of Point Sur. An ex- nt catch of 390 fish was also reported from 75 miles southwest of Pidgeon Point on August 24. The daily average ts of all albacore caught by the Lady Olga were 9-13 pounds (4.1-5.9 kg). Except for 1 day, the Four C's also ded albacore of 11-13 pounds (5.0-5.9 kg) while fishing between Cape Mendocino and San Francisco. Catches by the C's were 6-35 fish per day south of Cape Mendocino and mostly 0 fish catches during August 21-28 from 100-225 offshore between Cape Mendocino and Newport. The Lusty, meanwhile, worked from the Columbia River to the ern tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands during this period. Although its top catch was only 54 fish, the Lusty ind some albacore 60-65 miles off Tasu Sound and very poor fishing in the Dellwood Knolls area. Unlike the ore caught by the two AFRF boats in California waters, the Lusty caught albacore which averaged 15-18 pounds 8.2 kg) in waters north of Vancouver Island. The Lusty entered Astoria on August 29.

San Diego sportboats continued to fish for albacore off Baja California during the last 2 weeks of August. Both nger counts and albacore catches decreased during this period; however, daily averages were generally about one o albacore per angler.

In the last half of August, the high pressure center, which had extended northward into the Gulf of Alaska er, moved southwestward by August 20 and was centered near 37°N, 155°W. Low pressure extended along the coast alifornia into southern Oregon. After the high pressure center moved south of 40°N, northerly winds intensified g the U.S. west coast from San Francisco to Cape Blanco. This caused sea surface temperatures (SST) to be ntly below normal from Point Conception to 45°N and out 60 to 100 miles from the coast except around Davidson ount. In a triangular area between Erben Bank, Showboat and Davidson Seamounts, SST's warmed faster than the nal rate and they were 1° to 2°F above normal. Another area of more than 1°F above-normal SST's developed g the coast of Washington where the 60°F and 62°F contours (see chart) were within 50 miles of the coastline. Point Conception southward to Baja California and out to 120°W, SST's were about 1°F below normal in most areas he last half of August.

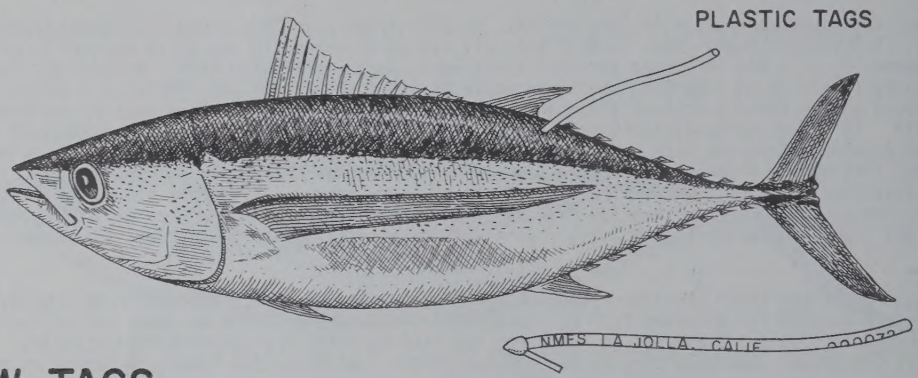
The Long Range Prediction Group, National Weather Service, forecasts for September surface pressures to be normal in the eastern and central Pacific, and below-normal pressures will continue along the central and ern part of the U.S. west coast. Therefore, very little change in the SST pattern, shown on the next page, is cted during September 1-15, 1977. Upwelling along the U.S. west coast is about normal for this time of year. ver, from Davidson Seamount to 37°N and westward from 122°W, SST's are expected to be 1° to 2°F above normal or 63° to 65°F.

t 31, 1977

Staff, Albacore Fisheries Program
R. Michael Laurs, Leader

$ REWARD $

FOR ALBACORE TUNA TAGS



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